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**Policy Advisory Council
September 8, 2010
Draft Minutes**

Chair Paul Branson called the meeting to order at 1:35 p.m. Members in attendance were Naomi Armenta, Cathleen Baker, Richard Burnett, JoAnn Busenbark, Carlos Castellanos, Bena Chang, Wilbert Din, Richard Hedges, Allison Hughes, Dolores Jaquez, Linda Jeffery Sailors, Randi Kinman, Federico Lopez, Marshall Loring, Cheryl O'Connor, Kendal Oku, Lori Reese-Brown, Gerald Rico, Frank Robertson, Dolly Sandoval, and Egon Terplan. Absent: Evelina Molina and Carmen Rojas.

Minutes

The minutes of the July 14, 2010 meeting were unanimously approved after a motion by Mr. Hedges and a second by Mr. Loring.

Policy Advisory Council Work Plan

Chair Branson presented a revised draft of the Council's Work Plan. Ms. Busenbark moved to approve the work plan and Ms. Jaquez seconded the motion.

Mr. Hedges said he would like to see more detail on transit oriented development (TOD), transit infrastructure and impacts of Senate Bill 375 (Steinberg) in order to formalize their importance. Mr. Terplan noted the need to elevate the importance of transit, but felt it could be incorporated into other major components of the work plan. He cautioned against too many subdivided pieces. Mr. Hedges noted that smaller groups would help focus the direction of the larger group. Chair Branson clarified that the current Work Plan draft recommends the creation of one standing subcommittee on Equity and Access at this time; however, ad hoc groups could be formed as needed. Mr. Lopez asked what the Chair's objective would be in relation to the Work Plan, and if the draft Work Plan was available for the public to review. Chair Branson said the objective is to adopt the Work Plan and use it as a foundation for moving forward. Ms. Grove noted that all MTC meeting agendas are posted on the MTC website for public view and the draft Work Plan was posted under the Council's September agenda.

After discussion, the Policy Advisory Council Work Plan was unanimously approved as presented.

Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Investment Analysis

The Council received a TIP Investment Analysis report from Alix Bockelman of MTC staff. Mr. Hedges noted that vehicle miles traveled data for transit is inaccurate because it does not account for people who ride private company shuttles. Mr. Robertson requested details about the qualitative methodology used for the report. Mr. Lopez asked how the

TIP Investment Analysis (continued)

elderly, blind and disabled are incorporated within the analysis, noting that these groups may not fall within low-income and minority populations. Ms. Bockelman noted that this report was specifically focused on low-income and minority populations; however, future reports could have expanded focus areas. Mr. Din expressed concern about using the Bay Area Travel Survey as the report's data source, since he felt it was deficient. Doug Johnson of MTC staff noted that future Snapshot analysis work will address this issue.

Mr. Castellanos said that the report shows that low-income and minority communities benefit more than their percentage share; however, he asked staff to consider projects that are within communities of concern (CoCs) but do not serve those communities, projects that are not economically accessible to CoCs, and projects that displace entire communities. MTC Executive Director Steve Heminger agreed that the geographic analysis does have limitations, which is why staff added the population use-based analysis. He requested feedback on how staff can improve future research and analysis. Ms. Hughes agreed with Mr. Lopez's comments about including statistical usage data for persons with disabilities.

Mr. Terplan asked what other methods were considered, what methods can be used in the future to address some of the concerns expressed, and how the results of the current report would be used. Ms. Bockelman said the report will inform decisions to be made between now and the 2013 TIP adoption. She also said that staff will need to start with the RTP in terms of improving the overall methodology, since the RTP focuses on total investments within a larger timeframe. Mr. Heminger noted that the report shows the region does not have a systemic problem of underinvestment; however, staff would like to work with the Council from the beginning for the next analysis. Mr. Johnson added that this report is a rolling picture at how the funding is proceeding, reminding the Council that only 50% of low-income and minority populations live within the identified CoCs.

Ms. Jaquez asked if the money is provided for in statute. She also said that the nine counties in the region are very different. She noted that minorities and low-income people in Sonoma County do not ride the bus because there are no buses to ride, so how would those populations be captured in the data? Ms. Bockelman said that some money does have a specific use, while some is flexible. Mr. Loring suggested forming a subcommittee to inform the next Bay Area Travel Survey and improve that data source. Ms. Kinman said the new census data will provide an opportunity to get all the information on the table. She requested that staff work to make the maps from the Snapshot Analysis interactive.

Ms. Sandoval requested better data matching, agreeing with Ms. Kinman's request for online/interactive maps, and asked why staff is doing this analysis if the current TIP does not change future funding expenditures. Ms. Bockelman clarified that staff was looking at the outcome of investments for low-income and minority populations, and noted that the findings will inform investments going forward. Mr. Heminger noted that the TIP serves as a check in and a way of implementing the RTP. He said that the RTP is where the Commission makes strategic choices, and noted that this report is an analysis with a lot of limitations. Ms. Sandoval asked if staff keeps comparative data to see how projects fare upon completion. Ms. Bockelman noted that the Snapshot Analysis tries to get at the outcomes of all of MTC's investments related to low-income and minority communities, but this is the first time this type of analysis has been done.

TIP Investment Analysis (continued)

Ms. Baker noted that the Snapshot Analysis contained a map expanding the definition of CoCs; she expressed interest in seeing how those expanded-definition projects perform in the future. She also requested that mode-split within transit – specifically rail, ferry and bus – be a part of future analysis. Mr. Johnson noted the current definition of the CoCs, and stated that most of the data for this analysis is from 2007-08.

Chair Branson recognized a member of the public:

David Schonbrunn of TRANSDEF said it would be valuable to have spreadsheets posted on the MTC Web site to allow the public to track methodology used. He said it was problematic to compare number of trips, and suggested staff use the approach undertaken by SACOG.

Overview of Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS)

The report by Ashley Nguyen of MTC staff was received by the Council. Ms. Chang asked for more detail on the outreach process for the SCS. Ms. Nguyen said the SCS Regional Advisory Working Group was created to involve a number of stakeholders, including local planners and congestion management agencies. There is also an Executive Working Group, made up of staff from the four regional agencies (MTC ABAG, BAAQMD and BCDC). She said there will be county and corridor working groups, and MTC also will conduct a series of outreach activities, including stakeholder workshops, use of the OneBayArea.org Web site, focus groups and telephone polls. Ms. Kinman requested that meetings be scheduled at a time when people can attend. She expressed concern that housing affordability was being left out of the discussion. Ms. Nguyen noted that one policy lever available to decision makers would be subsidies to local jurisdictions that provide affordable housing. Ms. Kinman also expressed concern over the reduction of open space.

Mr. Din asked if community stakeholders have provided input to date. Ms. Nguyen noted that meetings of the Regional Advisory Working Group are ongoing and include members of this Council and other stakeholders. Mr. Hedges noted that in addition to incentives, regional agencies need to create penalties for local jurisdictions that do not provide affordable housing. Ms. Jeffery Sailors noted that elected officials need to understand their responsibility in this process, and perhaps ways need to be explored to make constrained funds unconstrained. Ms. Nguyen agreed that engaging local elected officials is key for the success of the SCS. Ms. Reese-Brown said that city officials and planners need to be held accountable to implement SCS policies through their general plans. Mr. Heminger noted that SB 375 explicitly prohibits regional agencies from forcing local jurisdictions to implement the SCS; however, economic incentives can be used in order to encourage local governments to participate. Mr. Terplan said that the Council should provide input on the scenarios and requested this as a future agenda item.

Chair Branson recognized a member of the public:

Mr. Schonbrunn requested support for the development of a public alternative to be included and studied in the SCS/RTP Environmental Impact Report (EIR).

Overview of Targets for SCS

The Council received the report from Lisa Klein of MTC staff. Mr. Hedges noted there is no PM 2.5 testing in the West Bay, and this lack of data hinders the creation of housing near transit. Ms. Klein said that the concern is of interest to the Air District, and she will ask about their future plans. Ms. Kinman said one of the indicators could be the number of recreational facilities within walking distance. She also expressed concern over incomplete bike accident data, and asked how “services” were defined. Ms. Klein stated the definitions come from previous work, including the Transportation 2035 Equity Analysis and the Snapshot Analysis, and both data and definitions will be reviewed going forward. Ms. Sandoval asked the Council if a subcommittee to address this issue should be formed and what other topics they should address. Ms. Busenbark asked how many members were already participating on the Regional Advisory Working Group’s ad hoc subcommittee, and if a new subcommittee would be duplicative. Ms. Klein said there are eight members participating, which is a good representation of the Council.

Mr. Terplan asked how feedback from the ad hoc committee will be reflected, stating the response can come directly to him later. He cautioned against an emerging theme that time and distance should always be shortened. He noted that less mobility is not necessarily better for the region, as regional economic dynamism could be lost. He also suggested simplifying the list of targets by coming up with mode split targets, and lower driving, etc., within those.

Staff Liaison Report

The Council received Ms. Grove’s report.

Council Member Reports

Ms. Armenta announced that the Alameda County Transportation Improvement Authority (ACTIA) and the Alameda County Congestion Management Agency (Alameda CMA) have merged to form the Alameda County Transportation Commission (ACTA).

Ms. Busenbark expressed concern over the number of items on the agenda, and noted that the meeting would be more productive if it is shorter. Chair Branson noted that some items are time-sensitive issues. Mr. Din requested that items be noted as informational or action items on the agenda.

Public Comment/Adjournment/Next meeting

There was no public comment. The next meeting is scheduled for October 13, 2010. The meeting was adjourned at 3:55 p.m.